

(1) The term *performance of duty*, as used in such subchapter, shall not include an act of a participant or crew leader while absent from the assigned post of duty of such participant or crew leader, except while participating in an activity authorized by or under the direction and supervision of a program agency, (including an activity while on pass or during travel to or from such post of duty);

(2) Compensation for disability shall not begin to accrue until the day following the date that the employment of the injured participant or crew leader is terminated; and

(3) In computing compensation benefits for disability or death, the annual rate of pay of a full-time participant shall be deemed to be such entry salary for a grade GS–5 employee, and the annual rate of pay of a participant enrolled for a period of summer service shall be deemed to be 25 percent of such entry salary.

(d) *Tort Claims Procedure.* For purposes of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, relating to tort claims procedure, a participant or crew leader assigned to a youth corps program for which a grant has been made to, or other appropriate arrangement entered into with, the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of the Interior, or the Director of ACTION, shall be considered an employee of the United States within the meaning of the term “employee of the government” as defined in 28 U.S.C. 2671.

## PART 2504—NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

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AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.

SOURCE: 57 FR 5311, Feb. 13, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

### §2504.1 General.

The Commission will make grants for the creation of full- and part-time national and community service programs.

### §2504.2 Eligibility to receive grants.

States and Indian Tribes are eligible to receive grants under this part. For the purposes of this part, the definition of State includes Indian Tribes.

### §2504.3 Eligibility to participate in a program funded under this part.

(a) Part-Time: (1) An individual may serve in a part-time national service program under this part if the individual:

(i) Is 17 years of age or older; and

(ii) Is a citizen of the United States or lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(2) In selecting applicants for a part-time program, States must give priority to applicants who are currently employed.

(b) An individual may serve in a full-time national service program under this part if the individual:

(1) Is 17 years of age or older;

(2) Has received a high school diploma or the equivalent of such diploma, or agrees to achieve a high school diploma or the equivalent of such while participating in the program; and

(3) Is a citizen of the United States or lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(c) An individual may serve as a special senior service participant under this part if the individual:

(1) Is 60 years of age or older; and

(2) Meets any additional eligibility criteria for special senior service participation established by the Commission.

### §2504.4 State application.

(a) An application for funds under this part made by a State, must contain:

(1) The amount of funds requested for each fiscal year during the period covered by the State proposal;

(2) An assurance that the State will comply with the requirements of this Chapter and this part;

(3) A budget of estimated expenditures;

(4) The amount of Federal, State, and local public funds expended for services of the type assisted under this Chapter in the previous fiscal year;

(5) The State proposal, as required by § 2504.6 of this part;

(6) The number of individuals currently involved in community service part-time or full-time as participants in programs proposed to receive funds under this part (if applicable);

(7) The number of additional part-time, full-time, and special senior service participants and non-participant volunteers expected to become involved in community service under the program;

(8) Describe how non-participant volunteers will assist the program; and

(9) Such other information as specified by the Commission.

(b) Applications must be submitted annually at such time and in such manner as prescribed by the Commission.

#### **§ 2504.5 Assurances.**

The State proposal must include assurances that:

(a) The State will keep such records and provide such information to the Commission as may be required for fiscal audits and program evaluation;

(b) The State will ensure that the uses of post-service benefits described in § 2504.10 of this part are limited to the uses specified in § 2504.11 of this part;

(c) Prior to the placement of a participant, the State will consult with any local labor organization representing employees in the area who are engaged in the same or similar work as that proposed to be carried out by such program;

(d) Prior to the placement of a participant, the State will consult with employees at the proposed project site who are engaged in the same or similar work as that proposed to be carried out by such program;

(e) The State will ensure that any entity carrying out program functions pursuant to grant or contract will com-

ply with the provisions of this chapter and part;

(f) The State will provide to each participant enrolled in a full-time program in-service educational services and materials to enable such participant to obtain a high school diploma or the equivalent of such diploma;

(g) The State will cooperate in arranging and conducting the three-week training provided to participants by the Commission; and

(h) The State will comply with the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Requirements for Federal Grant Recipients under section 5153 through 5158 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (41 U.S.C. 401-707).

#### **§ 2504.6 State proposal.**

The State proposal must include the following information:

(a) A description of the State administrative plan for the implementation of a program with assistance provided under this part, including such functions, if any, that will be carried out by public or private nonprofit organizations pursuant to a grant or contract;

(b) A description of the manner in which an ethnically and economically diverse group of participants, including economically and educationally disadvantaged individuals, college-bound youth, individuals with disabilities, youth in foster care who are becoming too old for foster care, and employed individuals, shall be recruited and selected for participation in a program receiving assistance under this part;

(c) Whether the program will enroll individuals who have completed undergraduate education or specialized post-secondary training and whose training and skills enable them to provide needed services in the State;

(d) A description of the procedures for training supervisors and participants in skills relevant to the work to be conducted and for supervising and organizing participants in such program;

(e) A description of the procedures to ensure that the program provides participants with an opportunity to reflect on their service experience;

(f) A plan for providing full-time participants with educational services required in § 2504.5(f) of this part;

(g) A description of the geographical areas within the State in which the program would be operated to provide the optimum match between the need for services and the anticipated supply of participants;

(h) A description of the plan for placing the participants in teams or making individual placements in the programs;

(i) A description of the anticipated number of full- and part-time participants and special senior service members in such program;

(j) A plan for the recruitment and selection of sponsoring organizations that will receive participants under the programs that receive assistance under this part;

(k) A description of the procedures for matching the participants with the sponsoring organizations;

(l) A description of the procedures to be used to assure that sponsoring organizations that are not matched with participants shall be provided with information concerning the VISTA program and the Older American Volunteer Programs;

(m) The budget for the program, including anticipated public and private funding;

(n) A plan for evaluating the program and assurances that the State will fully cooperate with any evaluation undertaken by the Commission;

(o) The assurances required in § 2504.5 of this part; and

(p) Any other information required by the Commission.

**§ 2504.7 Reservation of funds.**

Not more than five percent of funds received under this part shall be used for administrative costs for any fiscal year.

**§ 2504.8 Types of service.**

A participant in a program that receives assistance under this part shall perform national service to meet unmet educational, human, environmental, and public safety needs, especially those needs relating to poverty.

**§ 2504.9 Terms of service.**

(a)(1) An individual performing part-time national service under this part shall agree to perform community

service as a participant in the program for not less than 3 years unless the individual is unable to complete the term of service for reasons provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(2) An individual performing full-time national service under this part shall agree to perform community service as a participant in the program for not less than 1 year nor more than 2 years, at the discretion of such individual, unless the individual is unable to complete the term of service for reasons provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(3) A special senior service participant performing national service under this part shall serve for any period of time as determined by the State.

(b) If the State releases a participant from completing a term of service in a program receiving assistance under this part for compelling personal circumstances as demonstrated by the participant, or if the program in which the participant serves does not receive continual funding for any reason, the State may provide such participant with that portion of the financial assistance described in paragraph (a) of this section that corresponds to the quantity of the service obligation completed by such individual.

(c)(1) A participant performing part-time national service under this part shall serve for:

(i) 2 weekends each month and 2 weeks during the year; or

(ii) An average of 9 hours per week each year in increments determined by the State;

(2) A participant performing full-time national service under this part shall participate in activities of the program for not less than 40 hours per week each year of service, including such holidays and vacation periods as designated by the program.

(3) A special senior service participant performing national service under this part shall serve either part- or full-time as permitted by the State.

**§ 2504.10 Value of post-service benefits.**

(a)(1) The Commission, through the State, will annually provide to each part-time participant a non-transferrable post-service benefit equal

in value to \$1,000 for each year of service that such participant provides to the program. Funds for this benefit shall be included in the budget for the program and reflected in the grant request.

(2)(i) The State shall annually provide to each part-time participant from non-Federal public or private funds a nontransferrable post-service benefit that is equal in value to \$1,000 for each year of service that such participant provides to the program.

(ii) A State may apply for a waiver to reduce the amount of the post-service benefit to an amount that is equal to not less than the average annual tuition and required fees at four year public institutions of higher education within such State. Such waivers will be granted if the Commission determines that such waiver would be equitable due to lack of resources in the State.

(b)(1) The Commission, through the State, shall annually provide to each full-time participant a nontransferrable post-service benefit that is equal in value to \$2,500 for each year of service that such participant provides to the program. Funds for this benefit shall be included in the budget for the program and reflected in the grant request.

(2)(i) The State shall annually provide from non-Federal public or private funds to each full-time participant a nontransferrable post-service benefit that is equal in value to \$2,500 for each year of service that such participant provides to the program.

(ii) A State may apply for a waiver to reduce the amount of the post-service benefit to an amount that is equal to not less than the average annual tuition, required fees, and room and board costs at four year public institutions of higher education within such State. Such waiver will be granted if the Commission determines that such waiver would be equitable due to a lack of resources in the State.

(c) Nothing in this part shall be construed to prevent a State from using funds made available from non-Federal sources to increase the amount of post-service benefits to an amount in excess of that described in this part.

(d) A special senior service participant shall be ineligible to receive post-service benefits under this part.

(e) The Commission will increase the value of post-service benefits provided under this part in each fiscal year based on the increase in the costs associated with attending a four year institution of higher education during that fiscal year. The Commission will determine such increases in costs based on information made available by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the National Center for Education Statistics.

#### **§ 2504.11 Uses of post-service benefits.**

(a) A post-service benefit for a part-time participant provided under § 2504.10(a) of this part shall only be used for:

(1) Payment of a student loan from Federal or non-Federal sources;

(2) Down-payment or closing costs associated with purchasing a first home; or

(3) Tuition at an institution of higher education on a fulltime basis, or to pay the expenses incurred in the full-time participation in an apprenticeship program approved by the appropriate State agency.

(b) A post-service benefit for a full-time participant provided under § 2504.10(b) of this part shall only be used for:

(1) Payment of a student loan from Federal or non-Federal sources; or

(2) Tuition, room and board, books and fees, and other costs associated with attendance (pursuant to section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 108711)) at an institution of higher education on a full-time basis, or to pay the expenses incurred in the full-time participation in an apprenticeship program approved by the appropriate State agency.

#### **§ 2504.12 Living allowance.**

(a)(1) Each participant in a full-time program that receives assistance under this part shall receive a living allowance of not more than 100 percent of the poverty line for a family of two. Program agencies have the flexibility to establish the amount of living allowance in accordance with this part.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (a)(1) of this section, a program agency may

provide participants with additional amounts that are made available from non-Federal sources.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a program in existence on November 16, 1990, to decrease any stipends, salaries, or living allowances provided to participants under such program.

(c) In addition to the living allowances provided under paragraph (a) of this section, grantees are encouraged to provide health insurance to each participant in a full-time national service program who does not otherwise have access to health insurance.

(d)(1) Each full-time special senior service participant shall receive a living allowance equal to the living allowance provided to full-time participants under paragraph (a) of this Section and such other assistance as the Commission considers necessary and appropriate for a special senior service participant to carry out the service obligation of such participant.

(2) Each part-time special senior service participant shall receive a living allowance equal to a share of such allowance offered to a full-time special senior service participant under paragraph (d)(1) of this section, that has been prorated according to the number of hours such part-time participant serves in the program, and such other assistance as the Commission considers necessary and appropriate for a special senior service participant to carry out the service obligation of such participant.

**§ 2504.13 Criteria for evaluating applications.**

(a) In determining whether to award a grant, the Commission will consider:

(1) The ability of the proposed program to serve as an effective model for a large-scale national service program;

(2) The quality of the application, including the plan for training, recruitment, placement, and data collection;

(3) The extent that the program builds on existing programs; and

(4) The expedience with which the State proposes to make the program operational.

(b) The Commission will also consider:

(1)(i) The quality of the program, based on the program's ability to offer valuable services in the communities where they are needed most and where programs do not exist or where existing volunteer service programs are too limited to meet community needs; to provide productive, meaningful, educational experiences for participants that incorporate service-learning methods; to involve the participants in the design and operation of the program; to involve individuals from diverse backgrounds (including economically disadvantaged youth) who will serve together and explore the root-causes of community problems; and to prepare the participants for future volunteer service leadership.

(ii) The quality of leadership and management, as measured by the qualifications of the principal leaders of the program and plans and processes for recruitment, training, supervision, participant support, evaluation, administration and other key activities.

(2) Innovative aspects of the program, based on the:

(i) Ability of the program to advance knowledge about effective community service in ways that will be broadly applicable beyond the program location; and

(ii) Approach to evaluation and other means of learning from the experience of the program;

(3)(i) Replicability, based on the ability and willingness of the program to assist others in learning from the experience and replicating the approach of the program; and

(4) Sustainability, based on:

(i) Inclusion in a State Comprehensive Plan;

(ii) Significant bipartisan, non-partisan, or other broad-based support for and involvement in the program; and

(iii) Evidence that financial resources will be available to continue the program after the expiration of the grant.

(c) In addition, the Commission shall ensure that programs receiving assistance under this part are geographically diverse and include programs in both urban and rural areas.

**§ 2504.14 Program training.**

(a) Each participant shall receive three weeks of training provided by the Commission in cooperation with the State.

(b) Each training session described above will:

(1) Orient each participant in the nature, philosophy, and purpose of the program; and

(2) Build an ethic of community service, and the assigned program task of each participant by providing:

(i) General training in citizenship and civic and community service; and

(ii) If feasible, specialized training for the type of service that each participant will perform.

(c) The State may provide additional training as the State determines necessary.

(d) Each sponsoring agency will also train participants in skills relevant to the work to be conducted.

## **PART 2505—INNOVATIVE AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS**

### **Subpart A—General**

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### **Subpart A—General**

#### **§ 2505.1 Limitation on grants.**

Given the availability of funds, the Commission shall make grants for no fewer than three programs, as specified in subparts under this part.

### **Subpart B—Governors, Innovative Service Programs**

#### **§ 2505.10 Purpose.**

This program is to support the creation of innovative volunteer and community service programs by providing assistance for certain service and demonstration activities as well as support functions such as training, technical assistance, and evaluation.

#### **§ 2505.11 Projects to be funded.**

The Commission may provide assistance through a general grant to States to support one or more of the following activities:

(a) Enhancements to existing volunteer and community service programs;

(b) Demonstration programs;

(c) Research concerning, and evaluation of, service programs;

(d) Coordination of service programs;

(e) Technical assistance;

(f) Training and staff development; and

(g) Collection and dissemination of information concerning service programs.

#### **§ 2505.12 Application contents.**

Applications proposing to perform activities under this subpart must contain:

(a) A description of the proposed program;